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How Twitch City defied every trapping of mainstream TV.
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Northbound

EXILED TO SIBERIA:
IMPERIAL RUSSIA'S
PENAL COLONIES. *A13*

Southbound

TRANSCANADA EYES
GULF COAST FOR OIL
& GAS EXPORTS. *FP1*

VOL. 20 NO. 29 WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2017

IN MYANMAR, POPE STAYS MUM ON ROHINGYA CRISIS



VINCENZO PINTO / AFP / GETTY IMAGES

PERSECUTION OVERLOOKED In a speech to Myanmar's ruling elite, including leader Aung San Suu Kyi, right, Pope Francis failed to condemn the military's campaign against the Muslim minority. *A10*

West Face seeks disclosure on stings

CHRISTIE BLATCHFORD
Comment

The stings run on a former Ontario Superior Court judge and a lawyer and former executive with West Face Capital Inc. "shock the conscience of the court" and "cast the administration of justice into disrepute," according to a court motion filed by West Face.

West Face and Catalyst Capital Group, two Toronto private-equity firms, are in an ongoing legal battle. They are next due in court Friday.

The comments are found in a lengthy motion filed by West Face at the Ontario Court of Appeal late Tuesday.

That motion seeks to obtain an enormous amount of disclosure about the stings carried out on both former judge Frank Newbould and West Face's former general counsel Alexander Singh. It also says West Face may seek to have Catalyst lawyers removed or disqualified and to have Catalyst's appeal dismissed "for abuse."

Newbould was the original trial judge in a 2016 lawsuit between Catalyst and West Face.

As exclusively reported by the National Post last Saturday, Newbould was approached by a purported client of his new arbitration business (he just retired from the bench in June) and was secretly recorded and photographed in two meetings with the bogus client.

See **BLATCHFORD** on **A9**

PUBLIC ART GOOF-UP IN CALGARY

Faces of U.K. comedians used in art display about Calgarians

JEN GERSON

CALGARY • It was late Tuesday when an old Canadian friend reached out to U.K.-based comedian Bisha K Ali.

He said: "Bisha, I know we haven't spoken in years. It's kind of weird, but this, this is for sure your giant face," Ali said.

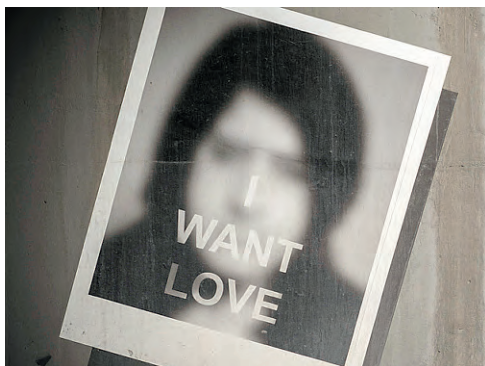
And, indeed, immortalized in the grey confines of Calgary's 4th Street underpass was a giant, albeit blurry, black-and-white photograph of Bisha Ali's face. Over it were inscribed the words "I Want Love."

Ali responded: "Yes, that is correct. That is my giant face in an underpass in Calgary. Why? I don't know."

Snapshots, which was commissioned by the city of Calgary and installed in October 2015 at a cost of \$20,000, was created by well-known local artist Derek Michael Besant, who also created the giant surreal mural on the side of Toronto's Flatiron building. Besant recently retired from the Alberta College of Art and Design and now lives in Okotoks, Alta. He did not respond to a request for comment.

The portraits, which are featured in a Polaroid-like frame, are supposed to feature Calgarians who actually use the underpass. Their faces are blurred, and words like "I live here," "I have a job," "I own nothing," and "I sleep outside," are juxtaposed on top.

See **BESANT** on **Page A6**



NRC nearly bankrupts startup

Gates-funded PnuVax fell behind on rent

JOHN IVISON
Comment from Ottawa

The government agency responsible for fostering scientific excellence nearly bankrupted a Canadian company pioneering a breakthrough inexpensive pneumonia vaccine for children because the business was behind on its rent.

PnuVax, a Montreal biotech company, is the single largest Canadian recipient of funding from the Gates Foundation, arguably the world's most prestigious charity. Yet the cost of developing a low-cost vaccine to combat a disease that is the world's largest killer of children under five caused it to fall behind on its land-lease payments to the National Research Council.

In May, PnuVax was given 30 days' written notice to either pay the outstanding amount, around \$1 million, or demolish its manufacturing facility in Montreal and vacate the premises.

Company founder Donald Gerson and his son Jonas travelled to Ottawa in early June to meet with NRC president Iain Stewart after receiving notice the NRC would not give the company more time to come up with the rent arrears.

See **IVISON** on **Page A7**

EMBASSY AUDITS FIND DUBIOUS PAYMENTS

SKY-HIGH OVERTIME

'Higher fraud-risk' Canadian outposts probed

BRIAN PLATT

OTTAWA • Audits of five Canadian embassies operating in "higher fraud-risk environments" have found cases of questionable procurement practices, undocumented payments for work, and sky-high levels of overtime for drivers.

The audits were ordered after a 2016 investigation discovered that Canada's embassy in Haiti was defrauded of \$1.7 million over 12 years through inflated supply contracts and diverted materials. The government fired 17 locally recruited employees over the case.

Management audits were conducted on Canadian embassies in Nigeria, Algeria, Russia, India and Kenya, as well as on Canada's embassy in South Korea as a low-risk environment for comparison purposes.

The audit results were posted online in November, except for the Kenya embassy; Global Affairs says "new information" was found at the last minute and that audit has been delayed. The other high-risk embassies, however, were all found to have major problems.

The audit on the Nigeria embassy was the most damning, concluding that protocols around "finance, procurement, contracting, revenues, and asset management were not consistently followed and some key controls were not in place or were circumvented."

Embassy managers were not being consistently provided procurement information, and "the majority of contracts were not entered into the departmental financial and administrative system," meaning invoices couldn't be matched up to purchase orders, and contracts over \$10,000 were not being proactively disclosed as required.

See **AUDIT** on **Page A2**

CANADA

TRUDEAU
MAKES FORMAL
APOLOGY
TO LGBTQ2
CANADIANS. *A4*

